

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC ITEM 15: NATURAL RESOURCES

REF: STATE 174774

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GENERAL DISCUSSION IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE UNDER ITEM 115 HAS CONCLUDED, AND A DRAFT RESOLUTION IS EXXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON JULY 19, WHICH COULD INVOLVE PROBLEM OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY.
END SUMMARY.

2. USDEL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING THE INFOMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION SERVICES OF THE CENTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT --EMPHASIZING BENEFITS TO LDC'S -- SUBJECT TO CONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS BY THE ACABQ AND COMMITTEE 5. OF THE THREE QUESTIONS WE WERE ASKED TO RAISE PER REFTEL, WE ASKED THE SECOND TWO IN OUR STATEMENT, TO WHICH DIRECTOR BAUM OF THE CENTER REPLIED (1) THE PROPOSED SERVICES WERE TO BE PART OF THE CENTER'S POLICY AND PROJECTIONS BRANCH;

(2) THE PROPOSED NEWSLETTER WILL BE BRIEF, TOPICAL AND IMELY AND WILL REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE ANTICIPATED COSTS

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(SEE SECRETARIAT'S REPORT , E/5807); THE OTHER PRINCIPAL METHOD

OF DISSEMINATION WILL BE THROUGH IN-DEPTH ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THE FIRST QUERY WE RAISED INFORMALLY WITH BAUM RATHER THAN IN OUR FORMAL STATEMENT AS IT WAS OUR JUDGMENT (AS WELL AS BOUM'S) THAT THIS MIGHT ENGENDER REACTIONS FROM LDC'S ON THE PRIVILEGED NATURE OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED THROUGH UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMS. BAUM NEVERTHELESS ANSWERED US THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE DRAWN ON TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE.

3. MOST DC AND LDC DELEGATIONS ALSO SUPPORTED THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL, BUT YUGOSLAVIA, USSUR, MEXICO, GREECE AND CUBA RAISED PROBLEMS.

4. MEXICAN DEL HAS SHOWN US AN INFORMAL DRAFT RESOLUTION HE HAS YET TO CLEAR WITH G-77, AFTER WHICH HE INTENDS TO SURFACE IT ON MONDAY, JULY 19. IT WOULD GENERALLY SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL, BUT WOULD EXPAND THE CENTER'S INFORMATION SERVICE TO INCLUDE THE ASPECTS OF PROCESSING RAW MATERIALS (PROPOSED ALSO BY JAMAICA) AND MANUFACTURE, AND WOULD LDC'S IN AN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF STATES' PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (WITHOUT FURTHER SPECIFICS OR QUALIFIERS).

5. ON THIS LAST POINT ONE APPROACH MIGHT BE TO FOLLOW THE FORMULA AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPT IN THE CASE OF GA RESOLUTION 3488 (XXX) OF 1975 ON THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN LDC DEVELOPMENT, IN WHICH WE WENT ALONG WITH ADOPTION WITHOUT VOTE, FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLANATION THAT WE ACCEPTED THE REFERENCE TO PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES (I.E. A PREAMBULAR REAFFIRMATION) ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT ITS EXERCISE WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE WILL TRANSMIT THE G-77 TEXT AS SOON AS RECEIVED, HOWEVER, AND WILL REQUIRE PROMPT GUIDANCE. DALE

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